

**Amendments to Drawings:**

Formal drawings are accompanying the present amendment.

**Remarks/Arguments:**

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed March 15, 2004.

Claims 1-24 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. The present Amendment adds new claims 25-28, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 1-28. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claims 1-2, 6, 8, 10-18, 20 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rader, U.S. Patent No. 6,370,851. Claims 3, 4-5, 7, 9, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rader U.S. Patent No. 6,370,581 in view of Mayhew, U.S. Patent No. 5,933,606. The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Rader describes the conversion of a fixed-length character encoding, such Unicode, into a "variable width" or "multibyte" encoding format, such as UTF-8.

Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A method of processing a data string in a web page, comprising:
  - (a) mapping the data strings to a fixed-length string;
  - (b) replacing the data string in the web page with the fixed-length string; and
  - (c) transmitting the page with said fixed-length string.

Rader does not disclose, suggest or give a motivation for such a system. In the Rader system, the transmissions use the UTF-8 variable length encoding rather than the Unicode fixed-length encoding. This is in some ways the opposite of step (c) of claim 1 of the present invention.

Claims 2-11 are dependent upon claim 1, for that reason, and because of the additional limitations of these claims, these claims are believed to be allowable.

Claim 12 reads as follows:

12. A method of converting meta-data in a web page to a fixed-length string, comprising:
  - (a) converting a string of meta-data to a random fixed-length data string;
  - (b) associating the string of meta-data with the fixed-length data string;

- (c) replacing the string of meta-data in the web page with the fixed-length data string.

The Step (a) of converting a string of meta-data to a random fixed-length data string, is not shown, suggested or given a motivation for in the Rader and Mayhew references. For example, the conversion from Unicode to UTF-8 described in the Rader reference is not at all random. Each Unicode number has a fixed one-to-one correspondence to a UTF-8 code. For this reason, claim 12 is believed to be allowable over the cited references.

Claims 13-16 depended upon claim 12 and for that reason and because of the additional limitations of these claims, these claims are believed to be allowable.

Claim 17 reads as follows:

- 17. A method of processing a web page, including a string of meta-data transmitted on a network, comprising:
  - (a) converting a string of meta-data to a fixed-length string;
  - (b) mapping the string of meta-data to the fixed-length string; and
  - (c) transmitting the fixed-length string in place of the string of meta-data.

Claim 17 is believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1. Additionally, step (b) of mapping a string of meta-data to a fixed-length string is not required for the system of Rader since there is already a previously known fixed one-to-one correspondence between the Unicode and UTF-8 code.

Claims 18-23 are dependent upon claim 17 and for that reason and because of the additional limitations of these claims, these claims are believed to be allowable.

Claim 24 reads as follows:

- 24. A method of processing a page with fixed-length mapped strings, comprising:
  - (a) identifying said web page by reference to a unique web page identifier;
  - (b) interpreting at least one fixed-length string of data corresponding to meta-data associated with said fixed-length string; and
  - (c) processing said meta-data.

None of the cited references include Step (b) of interpreting at least one fixed-length string of data corresponding to meta-data associated with the fixed-length string. For example, the fixed-length string in Rader is Unicode which does not have associated meta-data. For this reason claim 24 is believed to be allowable.

New claims 25-28 concern the conversion of URLs to fixed-lengths strings. Such a system is not shown, suggested or given a motivation for in the Rader and Mayhew references. For this reason, these claims are believed to be allowable.

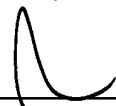
Claims 1-28 remain in the present invention and for the above discussed reasons are believed to be allowable.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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